



December 2010



The 104th Fighter Wing Honor Guard proudly marches into position during the Change of Command Ceremony held on Saturday, October 23, 2010.
(Photo by Technical Sgt. Melanie J. Casineau)



Col. Robert T. Brooks, Jr.

AIRSCOOP

104th Fighter Wing
Barnes Air National
Guard Base

Barnes Air National Guard Base 175
Falcon Drive
Westfield, MA 01085

Wing Commander
Col. Robert T. Brooks, Jr.

Vice Wing Commander
Col. James J. Keefe

Command
Chief Master Sergeant
Chief Master Sgt. Al Reale

Chief of Staff
Lt. Col. Mike Cousins

Wing Executive Staff Officer
Maj. Matthew T. Mutti

Public Affairs Officer
Capt. Mary L. Harrington

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Commander's column

By Col. Robert T. Brooks, Jr.

We, as a wing, had to bear some sad news this month, as we learned we had lost one of our Airmen, Dustin Curley (26) and one of our former Wing Commanders, Col. David Cummock (73). Col Cummock was the Wing Commander from 1981-1986, and served in many distinguished positions such as the National Director of the Air Force Association, and Dustin was an energetic young man who had a bright future with this unit. Our sympathies are extended to Dennis, Karen, Stacie and Shannon Curley and to the Cummock family Marge, Tracy (Cronin) and Dawn (Nelson). Both will be missed by their friends here at Barnes. I want to thank everyone for their support to the Curley and Cummock family during this difficult time.

Barnes has had an impressive tradition of supporting the community, the past few months have been no different, and I want to thank everyone. In addition to the on base ops tempo, I know there has been a lot of events occurring both on the civilian and military side. At our Senior Leader conference, Lt Gen Wyatt mentioned a recent speech by Secretary Gates, in which the secretary voiced his concern about the growing distance between the US military and our civilian population. Community relations are one of the strengths of the guard, and it is a competency we do very well. These engagements build a lot of trust with the civilian community and do nothing but strengthen our position and help shape our future.

Over the past four years, the 104th has been a lucky unit. Why do I say this? Much of it has to do with the fact Chief Al Reale has been the **Command Chief. Chief Reale's commitment** to this unit and to each one of you has been beyond reproach. As the senior enlisted leader in the wing, his guidance and counsel has impacted mission effectiveness, professional development, military readiness, training, utilization, health, morale, and welfare of the 104th enlisted Airman. He has provided leadership to the enlisted force and has been the functional manager for the first sergeants. His leadership has impacted the entire organization, up, down, and across the chain of command. I want to thank Chief Reale for the outstanding job he did as 104FW/CCC, all the while maintaining double duty as Munitions Superintendent. Additionally, Chief Reale has served as president of the Air National Guard Munitions Advisory Council and is the senior munitions inspector for the ANG Maintenance Standardization and Evaluation Team.

I suspect the next four years will continue to be lucky for the 104th, in that it has been said, **"Fortune favors the brave"**. We have selected another superb individual as new 104FW/CCC for the next 4-year tour, Chief Todd Fappiano. I want to thank Chief Fappiano for stepping across the line and taking on this additional duty. Chief Fappiano serves as our Civil Engineer Squadron Chief Enlisted Manager, over-

seeing the civil engineering support and operations personnel. With over 28 years of service, **and 7 as a Chief; I'm confident in his abilities** to pick-up the torch from Chief Reale and continue in his footsteps; being a solid advocate for the enlisted force, and the wing as a whole. In talking with Chief Fappiano, his concern is doing what is best for the unit, and for the individuals in the unit. I personally want to thank the Chief for taking on this new role, despite knowing this new role will undoubtedly increase his operational tempo, almost two fold.

Our focus now should be on the Logistics Compliance Assessment Program assessment followed by the Unit Compliance Inspection. All sections on base should have their checklists completed by the end of December, and plan to have two Staff Assistance Visits prior to the actual inspection. While the UCI is certainly a TEAM effort, a lot of our success will also come down to individual responsibility. Make sure you do your part, and if you need something to be successful please bring that up the chain of command. Thanks to Maj. Halisu-Kun, Capt Dibrindisi, Chief Master Sgt Beaulieu, our Logistics Squadron, and everyone who made the Weapons Instructor Course support deployment a success. I know it was short notice, and everyone did a superb job in making it happen. If a good example is the best sermon, then the 104th had a great Sunday in the pulpit as I have received nothing but positive feedback from Nellis AFB.

As we travel to see family and friends this Holiday Season, please be mindful to wear your seatbelts, and make sure you are utilizing good wingman operations for both your family and friends. We cannot afford to lose you; you are a valuable asset to this organization and family. Keep your situational awareness high and do the right thing. I want to thank everyone in advance who will be working here on base or abroad over the holidays, and from my family to yours, we wish you the very best this blessed Holiday Season.

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Chief Master Sergeant's column

By Chief Master Sgt. Al Reale, Command Chief Master Sgt.

Dear Members of the 104th Fighter Wing,

Thank you all.

For the past four years you have taught me so many things. I have certainly been able to widen my horizons and have a new-found respect for the things that you do to contribute to the success of the wing and our mission—from every corner of the base. Since I have observed you and your peers carrying out your mission, the common theme that I have seen is determination. You have faced a lot of adversity and a lot of challenges as a member of this

unit since 2006. I am so proud of each and every one of you as I have watched you conquer adversity and succeed time and time again; you have met every challenge, you have responded to members in need and you have shown unending support for their families. You are giving and you are kind. If I ever find out **who "they" is, I would tell "them" that they can't make it hard enough** for you or for any member of the 104th Fighter Wing—you are not a quitter; you may get knocked down, but you will rise time and time again to meet the next challenge. That makes you a winner. That makes you strong. That makes you my hero.

Thank you for your effort and support over the past 4 years. You **are an American Airman...you are a warrior... you will not fail!**



Obituary for Airman Dustin Curley

Airman First Class Dustin James Curley, 26, of Enfield, passed away suddenly on November 7, 2010 at the Methodist Hospital in Indianapolis, IN.

Born in Hartford on June 14, 1984, beloved son of Dennis Patrick and Karen (McLean) Curley of Enfield, he was raised in Enfield, attended Enfield Public Schools and graduated with the Class of 2002 from Enfield High School. Dustin continued his education at the University of Connecticut in Storrs, earning a B.A. in Psychology in 2006 with a 3.8 GPA and as a member of both the Dean's List and the Psychology Honor Society.

After his graduation from UCONN, Dustin took a position at the Capitol Region Educational Council (CREC), River Street Autism Program in Hartford. While at the River Street Program, Dustin discovered his passion for working with autistic children and decided to return to school at Central Connecticut State University to pursue a graduate degree in Special Education.

While attending classes he enlisted in the Massachusetts Air National Guard and graduated from basic training at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, TX in 2007. After his training, he was activated to the U.S. Air Force and was transferred to Sheppard Air Force Base in Wichita Falls, TX where he remained stationed for the last two years. Dustin was very athletic and health conscious. He enjoyed going to the gym, hiking and practicing and competing in mixed martial arts. He had attended the Royce Gracie Jiu Jitsu Academy and was an accomplished fighter. He also loved nature and being in the great outdoors, hiking, playing paintball, golfing, snowboarding, or just spending time with his friends and family. Dustin enjoyed all types of music, especially Reggae, Jazz and Bluegrass, and he was a big fan of Bob Marley and Led Zeppelin. While he had a crazy sense of humor and could make anybody laugh, he was admired by his friends and family as a genuine and thoughtful person. Many people in Dustin's life considered him their "best friend"

and he was always looked up to as a role model and source for sound advice whenever it was needed. He took time to be with



his many friends and family whenever he was visiting his hometown and he spoke regularly with his high school and college classmates. Besides his loving parents, he leaves two sisters, Stacie Lynn Curley and Shannon Marie Curley of Enfield; his girlfriend, Christina Carlisle of Tucson, AZ; six uncles; two aunts; and numerous cousins, other relatives and friends. He was predeceased by grandparents, David and Lynn Curley, and Harry and Doris McLean. Donations in memory of Dustin may be made to The River Street Autism Program, 34 Sequassen St., Hartford, CT 06106.



5 November 2010

A MEMORANDUM FOR the Members of the Massachusetts Air National Guard**FROM: Major General Michael D. Akey****Subject: A Farewell Message from the Commander**

My past six years as the Commander of the Massachusetts Air National Guard have truly been an experience of a lifetime. I'd like to reflect upon some of our accomplishments and challenges we faced. We have participated in the most challenging time in the history of the Massachusetts ANG and as an organization you never ceased to amaze me with your ingenuity, initiative, innovation, resiliency and service to our nation. Without your commitment and hard work during these times, the Massachusetts Air National Guard would not be positioned for continued solid operational excellence for the years ahead.

The resultant 2005 Base Realignment and Closure decision quickly identified our number one priority - the reorganization of two fighter wings in the midst of continued combat operations. My promise to our airman was straight forward; if you have a full time or traditional position with the MA ANG I would work to make opportunities available for you to continue your service. BRAC also created a second order effect, a challenge to our strength maintenance. Yet with the leadership of your commanders and our outstanding recruiting team we transitioned and grew from 83% to 97% assigned strength.

As an Air Guard, we focused on our federal mission with excellence. The number of ORI's, UCI's and numerous other inspections validated that we were ready to meet the COCOM's needs. This has been combat tested and proven with continuous worldwide support of ECS requirements from our Wings and GSU's. Not long after I assumed command, the gulf coast was devastated by hurricane Katrina and Rita. Massachusetts responded with a combined task force of Army and Air Guard members. Task Force YANKEE met the needs of the gulf coast citizens and provided security, search and rescue and medical assistance. This event changed the National Guard and added the additional focus of meeting the state mission with our ANG assets. Today JOC, CST, CERFP and HERF are part of our acronym lexicon.

As part of our state mission, I have challenged you to assist the citizens of the Commonwealth and the needs of our Governor. You have answered that call working side by side with Army National Guard soldiers to provide aid in times of flooding, ice storms, water outages, airport security and numerous other mission requirements. You have brought out of the box thinking and have worked seamlessly next to your fellow army guardsman with amazing results.

Our federal mission has also kept us extremely busy. The MA ANG has continued to deploy a large steady state group of airman with Intel, Comm, C2, Security, Firefighting, CE, E & I, EOD and many other specialties supporting the COCOM in all corners of the globe and even domestically in place 24/7, on the Southwest border, at NORTHCOM, CENTCOM or at 1st Air Force. We have returned the ASA mission back to Massachusetts - a key strategic location minutes from New York and Boston. Both fighter wings have built a reputation for excellence in air defense, and have adapted rapidly to the new focus of asymmetric aspects of this evolving mission. The feedback in all missions' sets or ECS support is always the same - top notch, above & beyond and a great part of the team. The tough part of sending you off to these many deployments is seeing the strain it has placed on our family members. Although difficult, the sacrifice that we make as airman is for the greater good and is inherent in the quality of our force. You should all take tremendous pride in your accomplishments and know that your sacrifices will help us defeat an enemy that threatens democracy, the rule of law and the foundation of our constitution.

I'll take this opportunity to thank the families of our guardsman. During the September change of command I spoke of the sacrifices that my family made, and highlighted as a father the tremendous difficulty in sending my own son/ guardsman off to war. Know that you were all part of my family and the numerous send off and welcome home events will always hold a special meaning to me. My sincere and heartfelt THANK YOU to all the wives, husbands, moms, dads, son's, daughter's and other family members who supported you during the difficult deployments.

The future foundation has been laid and we have reset our force. I have full faith in the skill sets of General Rice and know that his unique passion & energies will advance the MA ANG to the next level. DO NOT rest on your successes because each challenge will define your future destiny. To quote General Douglas MacArthur *"Yours is the profession of arms, the will to win, the sure knowledge that in war there is no substitute for victory, that if you lose, the Nation will be destroyed, that the very obsession of your public service must be Duty, Honor, Country."*

In closure, I wish each one of you the best in your future endeavors. A common question asked of me is why I spent 35 years in uniform - the answer was always easy, "It's because of the airman I served with". The bottom line is that patriotism and service above self are qualities that I valued. My wife Linda and I thank you for the support, wish you continued success and thank you for your service to the nation. God bless you - the United States Air Force and the Massachusetts Air National Guard.

MICHAEL D. AKEY
Major General, MA ANG
Commander

Outstanding Airmen of the Year Announced

Operational in the ASA, coordinating and hosting a world-class air show, deploying overseas supporting multiple contingency operations, reporting to state active duty to protect the citizens of the commonwealth, traveling to Nellis Air Force Base supporting Operations Red Flag or the Weapons Instructor Course, participating in a medical training in Alpena Michigan, passing our first Alert Force Evaluation, volunteering to serve food at the local homeless shelter, or working with the family readiness group hosting the annual Easter Egg hunt...these are just a few of the bullets found in the 2010 annual award package submissions.

This year the award program will run a little differently than in years past. The wing will announce the squadron-level award winners, but the group, wing and state winners will be announced during the awards banquet scheduled for February 5th at the Tekoa Country Club (see flyer on page 18).

The Squadron level winners will compete against other squadrons, then compete at the group level which will determine the 104th Fighter Wings 12 Outstanding Airmen of the Year.

The following Airmen have been selected as their Squadron's award winners, in the case of the Medical Group, Operations Group and Fighter Wing Headquarters, there is only one level for competition, and the winners of these organizations will compete for the wing level awards.

104th Force Support Squadron

Airman of the Year
Airman 1st Class Angel Lugo
NCO of the Year
Technical Sgt. Darci Furr
Senior NCO of the Year
Master Sgt. Mark Gaskalka
AGR/Technician of the Year
Senior Master Sgt. Andres Huxtable

104th Communications Flight

Airman of the Year
Senior Airman Wesley J. Sobczyk
NCO of the Year
Staff Sgt. Jason J. Schrecke
Senior NCO of the Year
Senior Master Sgt. Clint D. Kleciak
AGR/Technician of the Year
Staff Sgt. William McIsaac

104th Logistic Readiness Squadron

Airman of the Year
Senior Airman Michael Trainor
NCO of the Year
Staff Sgt. Thomas Landon
Senior NCO of the Year
Master Sgt. Nathan Mutti
AGR/Technician of the Year
Technical Sgt. Patrick Renna

104th Security Force Squadron

Airman of the Year
Senior Airman Juan Barrera
NCO of the Year
Technical Sgt. Steve Jeffers
Senior NCO of the Year
Master Sgt. Shane Cekovsky
AGR/Technician of the Year
Tech. Sgt. Dana Thayer

104th Civil Engineer Squadron

Airman of the Year
Senior Airman Matthew Annis
NCO of the Year
Technical Sgt. Gregory Pauli
AGR/Technician of the Year
Technical Sgt. Jeremiah McClosky

104th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron

Airman of the Year
Senior Airman Ian McAlister
NCO of the Year
Technical Sgt. Marilyn Morales
Senior NCO of the Year
Chief Master Sgt. Robert Roy
AGR/Technician of the Year
Master Sgt. Christopher Auclair

104th Maintenance Squadron

Airman of the Year
Senior Airman Justin Rogers
NCO of the Year
Technical Sgt. Bryan Lucas
Senior NCO of the Year
Senior Master Sgt. Scott Cardaropoli
AGR/Technician of the Year
Master Sgt. Manabu J. Okutani

104th Maintenance Group Support Units

NCO of the Year
Technical Sgt. Michael Land
Senior NCO of the Year
Senior Master Sgt. Dennis Desroches

104th Maintenance Ops Flight

NCO of the Year
Technical Sgt. Julie Acker
Senior NCO of the Year
Master Sgt. John Chandler
AGR/Technician of the Year
Technical Sgt. Kristen Martin
Company Grade Officer of the Year
Capt. Michael Dibrindisi

104th Fighter Wing Headquarters

Airman of the Year
Senior Airman James Louis
NCO of the Year
Staff Sgt. Kristin Anderson
Senior NCO of the Year
Senior Master Sgt. Robert Sabonis
AGR/Technician of the Year
Staff Sgt. Neisha Nixon
Company Grade Officer of the Year:
1Lt. Jamie Stebbins

104th Medical Group

Airman of the Year
Senior Airman Aaron Zanchi
NCO of the Year
Technical Sgt. John Cycz
Senior NCO of the Year
Master Sgt. Karin Zajac
Company Grade Officer of the Year:
Lt. Denis St. Jean

104th Operations Group

Airman of the Year
Senior Airman Eric Chan
NCO of the Year
Staff Sgt. Joshua Read
Senior NCO of the Year
Senior Master Sgt. Chris Plotniak
AGR/Technician of the Year
Master Sgt. Darcie Rock
Company Grade Officer of the Year:
2nd Lt. Sharon Messina

We'd also like to congratulate the 2010 Community College of the Air Forces Graduates. The CCAF program allows Airmen the opportunity to earn associates degrees through applying the practical knowledge learned through the AFSC awarding process:

- Nilka Alleyne: Financial Management, Human Resources & Logistics
- Todd Canedy: Criminal Justice
- Shannon Huard: Safety
- James Ingari: Aviation Maint. Tech
- Todd McCarthy: Aerospace Ground Equipment Technology, Mechanical & Electric Technology
- Todd Mullane: Fire Science
- Jenna Oleksak, Cardiopulmonary Laboratory Science
- Leonitino Piecuch, Fire Science
- Carey Souda: Construction Science
- John Stec: Maintenance Production
- Bonnie Miller: Information Management
- Barry Walter: Human Resource Management

Seatbelt saves awakened airman

By Airman 1st Class Bonnie Harper, Public Affairs Journalist

(November 7, 2010, Barnes Air National Guard Base, Westfield, Mass.)—Jolting in the seat of her car, the driver was awakened to find the car driving toward a red minivan to her right. Startled, she swerved the steering wheel to avoid hitting the other vehicle, but had overturned the wheel and crashed into the center median.

“I never thought that it would happen to me,” she said as she reflected on her recent car accident.

Nineteen-year-old Samantha Klein, an Airman 1st Class in the 104th Student Flight, survived the impact of a car crash on September 12 on the Mass Pike by wearing her seatbelt.

Airman Klein was not always an every-time seatbelt wearer. If she was making a quick trip around the corner, she would get in the car and go, Klein said. But after having experienced her first car accident, her views on driving safety have changed.

On the day of the accident, Airman Klein was driving from Barnes to her home in Auburn. Seatbelt buckled, she left the base around 3 p.m. and dozed off at the wheel just before the accident occurred at 3:46 p.m. as she was driving through Palmer, passing mile marker 63 on the Pike, she said.

After hitting the median, Klein blacked out and ended up on the guardrail on the other side of the highway. An undercover police officer and an off duty EMT were on the highway at the time of the accident and stopped to help, Klein said.

When the emergency officials reached Klein, they noticed that her seatbelt was unbuckled, the buckle must have been disengaged at the point of collision. However, the seatbelt was still wrapped around her left arm, which proved that the seatbelt had aided in lessening her physical damage from the impact of the crash, along with **the ejection of the driver’s side air-**

bag, she said.

She was rushed in an ambulance to Bay State Medical where she had x-rays taken of her chest, ribs, back and neck.

Master Sgt. Fred Fopiano, the 104th Mission Support Group first **sergeant, was notified of Klein’s accident and drove to the hospital to provide military support to Klein and her family.** He briefed **Klein’s family on her status but** spent most of his time there consoling them and making sure that somebody from her military family was present as well.

As part of his role as first sergeant for the Student Flight, Sergeant Fopiano continues to brief the new Airmen on the importance **of buckling up. Discussing Klein’s accident, he said, “The seatbelt kept her in the vehicle, which is what saved her life. If she hadn’t been wearing it, then she would have gone through the windshield or the side window.”**

Klein said her physical damage was minimal, involving a strained neck and bruises on her shoulder and ribs. She wore a neck brace for the rest of that evening and was on bed rest for a few days. Three weeks later, the majority of the pain from the accident was gone, Klein said.

The damage to her car mainly **occurred on the driver’s side. The body of the car, from headlight to taillight, was smashed in with the driver’s side window shattered.** Three out of the four tires were smashed in and there was slight **damage on the passenger’s side headlight.** Klein said she was lucky that it had not been a frontal collision and that her car had not landed on the roof, because she was driving a convertible Mitsubishi Eclipse that would not have been able to withstand such impacts.

“Now I wear my seatbelt every single time I’m in the car, whether I’m a passenger or a driver,” Klein

stated.

Along with wearing her seatbelt in the future, Klein has said she will never drive on the Pike at night because if she could fall asleep at the wheel during daylight, that it would be even easier to do so when it is dark. The scary thing about car accidents is that it can happen to anyone, she said.

“Always wear your seatbelt and make sure that before you get behind the wheel that you are completely rested,” Klein said in providing advice to drivers of all ages.

Senior Master Sgt. Tom Dumais, the 104th Fighter Wing Ground **Safety manager, stated, “This is a classic example of how something as simple as a seatbelt can truly save your life. No one wants to or expects to be involved in a crash which is exactly why they must be worn all the time.” He further stated that, “The key to surviving a crash is staying in the vehicle secured in your seat. Being ejected or tossed around at a high rate of speed is where the damage is done. Had she been ejected from the vehicle during this crash, or had this been a roll over and she was not buckled in, the outcome would have been much worse.”**

Based on data from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) from their 2008 surveys, seat belt usage is slightly up from previous years. Seat belt use for occupants ages 8–15 stood at 83 percent in 2008 (up from 82% in 2007), at 80 percent for occupants ages 16–24 (up from 77% in 2007) and at 84 percent for occupants ages 25–69 (up from 83% in 2007). While not statistically significant, these increases are a positive sign that more people are buckling up, potentially saving more lives.

Please
Buckle Up!

What is the Weapons Instructor Course

By Staff Sgt. Matthew Benedetti, Public Affairs Journalist

Members of the 104th Fighter Wing deployed in November to Nellis AFB, Nevada to support the United States Air Force Weapons School. During this deployment, personnel supported the USAF Weapons School.

The U.S. Air Force Weapons School teaches graduate-level instructor courses that provide the world's most advanced training in weapons and tactics employment to officers of the combat air forces. Every six months, the Weapons School produces approximately 80 graduates who are expert instructors on weapons, weapons system and air and space integration. They deliver to their respective squadrons the latest tactics, techniques and procedures for air-to-air and air-to-ground combat. 104th pilots served as the (OPFOR) opposition force during the exercise.

The prestigious Weapons School began in the late 1940s as the USAF Gunnery School. This school was designed to teach air combat lessons learned and sought to improve pilots' aerial gunnery skills in the P-51, F-80, F-84 and F-86. Today, the Weapons School offers weapons instructor courses (WIC) for the A-10 Thunder-

bolt II, the B-1B Lancer, the B-2 Spirit, the B-52 Stratofortress, the EC-130H Compass Call, the KC-135 Strato-Tanker, the C-17 Globemaster II, the C-130 Hercules, the F-15C Eagle, the F-15E Strike Eagle and the F-16 Fighting Falcon.

Students are fully qualified instructor pilots and among the elite of their profession. During the course, they receive an average of 400 hours of graduate-level academics and participate in demanding combat training missions. The climax of the course is the mission employment phase, a two-week staged battle over the Nevada Test and Training Range. The students demonstrate their ability to manage a battle and effectively integrate multiple weapons systems. Upon graduation, the new weapons officers return to the field to serve as unit weapons and tactics officers, providing advanced instruction and technical advice to their commanders, operations officers and personnel. Graduates of the Weapons School are revered among **their peers.** Major Jared "Chowda" Conaboy from the 104th is currently in the Weapons School and scheduled to graduate this month.

104th pilots served as the (OPFOR) or opposition force. Captain Mike Dibrindisi, a resident of Leeds, who is the fulltime 104th Maintenance Squadron OIC, was selected as the Deployment Maintenance project officer. A veteran of several deployments, he was glad to support Nellis personnel during the exercise. **"I was excited to deploy back to Nellis with the 104th and our F-15s. This is a great training opportunity for us while supporting the Fighter Weapons School and one of our own pilots, 'Chowda,' he said. 'We worked some very long days but I proud of our people.' added Capt. Dibrindisi. (see *Bad Guys* article pg 9 for more on the deployment)**



(Photo by Technical Sgt. Anthony Mutti)

104 Turkey's donated again

By Maj. Matthew T. Mutti, Wing Executive Officer

On November 18th, members of the 104th Fighter Wing donated 104 turkeys to the Westfield Salvation Army, supporting their annual thanksgiving meals.

"This is the fifth year we have donated turkeys to the Salvation Army", said Senior Airman Justin Rogers, event organizer. "We look forward to working with the community at every opportunity. The entire Wing gets behind this project, and we are proud to continue this tradition."

This donation is followed annually by a donation of canned food that is collected during the unit's Decem-

ber drill weekend. Last year the unit donated 600 pounds of food. The food is collected through a food drive run by the 104th Munitions Flight. The entire flight of 40 members collects food and monetary donations as vehicles enter the base during this traditional event. The 'Ammo Can' drive is in its 22nd year, and to date, has collected and donated over eleven thousand pounds of food to the local Westfield shelters.

"The wing strives to be a community leader, lending a hand when it can", said Col Robert T. Brooks Jr., 104th Fighter Wing Commander. "I am always impressed by the generos-



L to R: Laurie Matthews, Luz Rodriguez, SrA Justin Rogers, TSgt. Kenneth McElroy, Gail LaGasse, and TSgt. Michael Stula. (Photo by SMSgt. Rob Sabonis)

ity of this unit; it is evident that they truly care for those in need."

Being the “Bad Guys”

By Technical Sgt. Anthony Mutti, Public Affairs

On November 5, 2010, 88 members of the 104th Fighter Wing with 5 of their F-15 C/Ds traveled to Las Vegas, Nevada to play the role of aggressor for the U.S. Air Force Weapons School at Nellis Air Force Base.

For two weeks the 104th Fighter Wing pilots will simulate the tactics of opposing nations and engage F-16s, other F-15s, and F-22s during intense training scenarios over the deserts of Nevada. The scenarios are part of the practical learning experience at the Weapons School.



(Photo by Technical Sgt. Anthony Mutti)

The mission of the United States Air Force Weapons is to teach graduate-level instructor courses, which provide the world's most advanced training in weapons and tactics employment to officers of the combat air forces. Currently there are Weapons Instructor courses for 17 weapon systems, and the curriculum length is approximately six months.

In keeping with the Air Force core value of “Service Before Self,” the 104th stepped forward and volunteered to support this very important mission. “Since they have been closing bases around the country, there are less and less people who are able to come out here and support the weapons school”, said Lt. Col. David “Moon” Halasi-kun, 131st Fighter Squadron. “We volunteered because we understand the importance of supporting the weapons officers and the weapons school.” We took this opportunity, he continued, because we could and we were not currently tasked to an overseas commitment.

With less than a month to plan and deploy personnel, the 104th scrambled

to put together a successful package. “Considering the short notice; we got the people and gear here. It went pretty smooth,” said Tech. Sgt. Matthew Barkyoub, 104th Fighter Wing Logistics Readiness Squadron. “The Nellis support center has been great to work with.”

In addition to supporting the Weapons School, this mission provides an excellent training opportunity for both our pilots and ground crews.

“There is actually a lot of training to be had because even when you’re pretending to be the bad guy you can still exercise all of your radar systems, and all of your weapons systems, just like you were a good guy”, said Lt. Col. David “Moon” Halasi-kun. “The difference is that we have to employ using red air tactics --like we are a threat country pilot who is very heavily dependent on ground control, as opposed to western tactics, which are very autonomous.”



(Photo by Technical Sgt. Anthony Mutti)

The red air missions are important for two reasons. First, the practical experience of fighting against realistic advisories reinforces the fundamentals the students are taught in the classroom. It also allows the pilots flying the red air tactics an inside view of

how potential enemies may fly in combat. “[Normally] we are told, ‘take your 4 ship and go clear that lane and do it on your own and come back when it’s done.’ Foreign countries are very reliant on direct control, we are told: ‘turn your plane here,’ ‘target that guy off your nose,’ ‘now turn around’ . . . that is a different mindset then we are used to employing!”

“It’s been very good for the 104th to



(Photo by Technical Sgt. Anthony Mutti)

come out here on a couple of different levels, not just the flying training, but here at Nellis there are a lot of different agencies that we get to interface with. The 422nd [Test and Evaluation Squadron], does a lot of the developing tactics and working with new cutting-edge equipment,” said Lt. Col. David “Moon” Halasi-kun. “We also get to do direct face-to-face debriefs with the F-22 guys, that’s a huge learning opportunity for us ...to see how they employ in combat. Last night we flew with F-22s and B-2s ...and to see all of that is just something you’re not going to see in Western Mass.”

Throughout the two-week engagement, aircraft maintenance and other support personnel were critical. Though manned for only one shift, they were able to sustain maintenance activities every day in a surge mentality, covering a 15 hour flying window. They ensured that 4 aircraft were launched every morning and 4 aircraft were launched in the early evening. With three days left in this mission, they have maintained an impressive 100% mission capable rate, while generating approximately 50 simulated combat sorties and more than 76 flying hours.

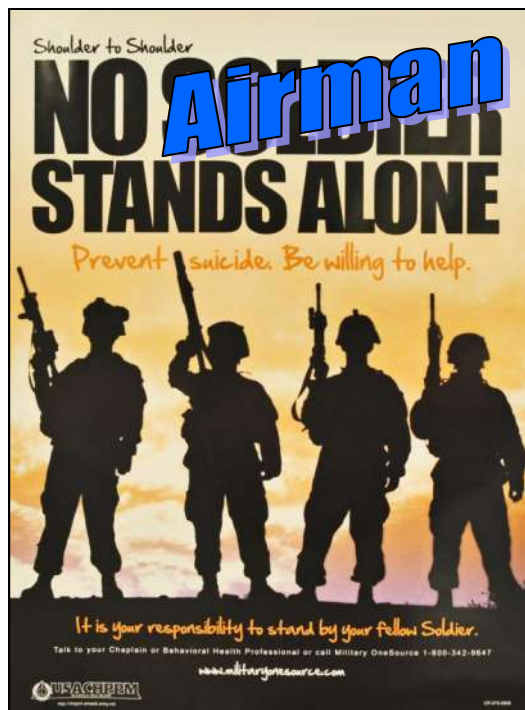
Even one suicide is too many

By Chief Master Sgt. James A. Roy, Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force

An alarming trend is happening in our Air Force, and we need your help. We've had a drastic increase this year in the number of suicides among our total force Airmen – active duty, guard, reserve and civilians. Last year we lost 84 Airmen by suicides; this year, we've nearly reached that number, and it is only October. Even one suicide is too many!

We all take Suicide Awareness training, but that's just the first step – we must take immediate action and get involved. We need to look out for each other and understand that we're not alone. Be ready and willing to assist your Wingman and ask for help when you need it. We must all take the time to care about those around us. That's what good Wingmen do, and that's what our Air Force needs.

Supervisors at every level must act now. Get to know your Airmen better and understand their personal and professional challenges. This is not a time to sit idle and think this won't happen in your unit. No one is immune. Suicides range the spectrum of ages, locations, MAJCOMs and career fields. The two most common factors we've seen are



problems with relationships and finances.

We need to be good Wingmen for others and also need to develop and maintain trusted relationships and friendships where we can talk openly and honestly about things happening in our

own lives. We need to feel comfortable exchanging ideas, views and experiences with those who are closest to us.

There is always someone available for you. So many people care about you – more than you may think; family, friends, co-workers, supervisors, first sergeants, commanders, chaplains, medical professionals and senior leaders are ready and willing to listen and help.

Just give them a chance. Don't ever think you are alone or that no one will understand. We will understand, and we will help you. It doesn't matter whether you write, call or e-mail, please reach out. We are an Air Force family and you mean a lot to all of us. If you feel you are at the end of your road, you are not – talk with someone. We care about you and will ensure you receive the help you need.

You should never be afraid of seeking help for fear of reprisal. Our lives should be the priority. The Air Force also has many resources to help.

Military and family life consultants, chaplains and medical professionals are all available. Also, Military One Source counselors are always available by calling 800-342-9647 or visiting www.militaryonesource.com.

With everyone's help, we can and must step up and reverse this devastat-

Take care of Your Wingman

By Master Sgt. Chris Curtis, Law Office Manager

The holiday season is a fun time to spend with family and friends and share food and, of course, drink. One of the bigger challenges I'm tasked with every year at about this time is to write an article that will put forth the "please don't drink and drive" message in a way that will hold your attention, and not seem like a re-hash of the same old thing. I'd like to share some information on a drunk driving case that I found involving a military member, and the friends who tried in vain to keep him from making a mistake.

In February of 2008, Marine Lance Corporal Elijah Ferguson attended a safety briefing during which attendees were made aware of the dangers of drunk driving. Corporal Ferguson then

began drinking at the club to the point of inebriation and tried to drive home. Several other Marines, who apparently took heed of the safety briefing earlier that day, interceded and took Corporal Ferguson's car keys over his heated protests. Corporal Ferguson fell asleep, but awoke several hours later – still drunk – and demanded that a lower ranking marine give his keys back. Corporal Ferguson subsequently drove away and rear ended another vehicle, killing a doctor and injuring the doctor's wife.

Because of the extreme nature of the case, Corporal Ferguson was convicted of second degree murder and sentenced to fifteen years to life in prison. I'm sure on the night in ques-

tion, Corporal Ferguson had no intention of rear-ending Dr. Sein and his wife, or going away to jail for a long time. Unfortunately, these things can happen when people drink and drive.

The glimmer of hope in all this is that Corporal Ferguson's fellow Marines stepped in to try to keep something bad from happening. It's important during the holidays to have good times with family and friends. It's perfectly fine to share drinks and warm spirits – it's just not okay to drive under the influence afterwards. If you see the next Corporal Ferguson about to make a mistake, have the courage to take action. Keep your Wingman safe!



First Sergeant's column

By Master Sgt. Todd Canedy, Security Forces Squadron 1st Sgt.

My name is Nathaniel Oliver Hope. I am 23 years old and a Staff Sergeant in the Air National Guard.

My life is nothing out of the ordinary and most likely very similar to most military members. I am the only child of two loving parents who have sheltered me from violence. I was not subject to abuse, was not the victim of molestation and I never knew the pain of loss or poverty. I played sports (mediocre at best). My grades in school were average. Growing up in a small town kept me grounded. I wanted for nothing and appreciated everything. I enjoyed strong friendships throughout my childhood years and have been fortunate to have had typical teenage experiences. Where I grew up and where I am now does not quite matter. I am just like any other Airman.

Today I rolled out of bed late for work. I threw on my ABUs, ran downstairs and pulled on my boots. My mother was nagging me about being late for work again. **"What does she know about it? She does not know what it is like being me."** I shake my head and out the door I go. My dad is in the driveway preparing the snow blower for a hard winter. He shoots me a disapproving look and says nothing as he turns back to his morning task. **"What's his deal? Why doesn't he try dealing with my life for one day?"** I jump into my car and make my way to the base.

Pulling up to the gate I realize I forgot my CAC card in my computer. **"Great, Paul is going to be so pissed. Who cares, I didn't see him stay late. It is not as though he cares about his Airmen in the first place."** The gate guard has me pull over to the shoulder of the road while he calls my supervisor to confirm my identity. **"You're all set"** I hear him yell to me. I continue to my duty section. Out of my vehicle and into my office. I can hear the other guys snickering and making jokes about me as I walk past. **"If they only knew how it felt to be treated this way, maybe they wouldn't do it."** I drop my things and go down the hall to my Supervisor's office. **He has me come in and sit**

down. **"You know Nate; you're really pushing the tardiness issue. I need you to show up to work on time like all the other guys",** he says.

"Like this guy has a clue of why I am late and what is going on in my life. Has he once asked me how my life was going, or if I wanted to talk about anything? Does he realize my fiancée just left me for another man, all because, according to her she cannot face another one of my deployments? Of course not! I am not one of his stellar performers, why should he be concerned with what is going on in my life."

I head back to my office and try and delve into my work. I can hear the others talking about their upcoming weekend and how awesome it is going to be. My weekend will be filled with watching television and wishing the holidays were over. **"I hate being alone on Christmas, but those feelings seem to be subsiding. I have this overwhelming sense of calm. It is like I have finally figured out my life and how to change my situation. Who needs this crap?"**

My day finishes and I head home. **"Funny, no one bothered to invite me out this weekend. I guess they stop asking when you turn them down as many times as I have."** I pull up to the house and jump out of my car. Calm comes over me, knowing this struggle I am dealing with is finally going to be end. I have made the decision to fix the issue.

In the house, up the stairs, to my room and I close the door. I sit down at my desk and stare at a picture of me when I was 10 years old. **"Life was simpler then. I didn't have to deal with work or the guys there that don't understand me. I didn't have my parents looking at me as though I was a screw up. I hadn't had a girlfriend, so I never knew the pain of losing one. Life was much simpler back then."**

I pull a sheet of paper from my desk drawer and draw a pen from the can on the shelf. I write a few lines and nothing more. **"Destiny and tranquility awaits me."** I say aloud. I reach under my bed and pull out my conscience. With a deafening crack and a blinding

light, my world goes black. It only hurt for a second, when the life I was living hurt all the time.

If I had been able to see the future and the pain I would have caused so many, I might have made a different choice. If I could have known my mom would have come rushing into the room to find my lifeless body lying on the floor, surrounded by a pool of blood; I might not have dropped the hammer. If I could have heard her retching in sorrow and screaming for my dad to please come and save her poor little boy. If I could have understood the pain I would have caused her or the haunting sounds of her begging her husband to **"Please, please save our boy.... Please, No.... Why would you do this? WHY? No... Watch his head. He'll be fine. He has to be. Please, why, why?"**

"I did not want this. I did not want my family to go through this hell. I just wanted peace. I wanted someone to understand me. I wanted to have someone pull me aside and speak with me. Why couldn't my supervisor just ask me how I was doing or what was new in my life? Why couldn't the guys at work just pull me aside and be good Wingmen like the Air Force preaches? I know it isn't anyone's fault, but I can't help but wonder, what if. What if someone had taken the time to speak with me? What if someone had pulled me aside? What if I had of been provided the proper channels to speak with someone? What if someone would have just taken the extra moment to sit me down and force me to talk about the changes I had been going through? Perhaps if that had happened, my mother and father would not have found me as they did. My friends and coworkers would not have had to attend my funeral and I would still be alive."

What was on the note you ask? Just three simple lines to sum up my legacy and my life...

No one cares

No one understands

N.O. HOPE

Airman in Focus - Senior Airman Tanya Kawolis

By Technical Sgt. Anthony Mutti, Public Affairs

It takes a team to make a large scale deployment happen. Just ask Senior Airman Tanya Kawolis, from Hyannis, MA, who is on her first operational deployment to Nellis Air Force Base Nevada with the 104th Fighter Wing.

Kawolis came to the 104th after spending the first year of her enlistment at the 102nd Fighter Wing, Cape Cod, MA before it converted to an Intelligence Wing. She has been with the 104th for the past 3 years, working in the Egress shop, and is now supporting the five aircraft tasked to provide aggressor support for the U.S. Air Force Weapons School.

As part of the egress shop, it is **Kawolis' responsibility to inspect and maintain the ejection seat and the explosive elements of the ejection seat mechanism.** It is also her responsibility to provide egress familiarization training to other shops to

make sure they don't accidentally trigger the ejection mechanism while working on the aircraft.

"When everything is working, I don't have too much to do on a deployment like this, but that's a good thing!" said Senior Airman Kawolis. Instead, she spent a large amount of her time watching what other shops do. **"We are away from everybody, in the middle of nowhere; so we don't see much of other people, much less see what they do to support the mission," said Kawolis.** **"I've had an opportunity to observe some non-destructive inspections, learn how to marshal-in aircraft, and see many of the other activities that go into launching and recovering the jets."** The opportunities to learn from others, while not inspecting the ejections seat systems before and after flights, has allowed some time to better understand everyone's part of the mission, and learn how to help out in a

pinch, Kawolis said.

For Kawolis, this deployment has been a fantastic experience, **"It's been awesome! I've gotten to meet a lot of new people--other people outside my section I rarely get a chance to interact with. It's been great. It's been fun. I would definitely do it again."**

"This exercise provides a practical experience for Airmen to understand what it may be like if deployed overseas. The work hours and resources are scarce, and working together as a team is the only way to be successful", Kawolis said.



(Photo by Tech. Sgt. Tony Mutti)

Airman in Focus - Staff Sgt. Robert Eisnor

By Staff Sgt. Matthew Benedetti, Public Affairs

Recently returned from a 5-mile road march, Staff Sgt. Robert Eisnor drops his 50 pound pack and begins to attend to the assorted paperwork on his desk in the Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) unit here at Barnes. He dutifully sorts through the forms and folders that pertain to his upcoming deployment to South-west Asia.

The Worcester native has been in the Air Force since 2002 and is familiar with the process. A veteran of two deployments to Kirkuk, Iraq as an EOD member, Eisnor is an expert in his field and takes great pride in his work. EOD members share a unique camaraderie and esprit de corps.

Eisnor is keenly aware that the enemy regards EOD members as critical to the success of the coalition

forces mission, and often targets those individuals. His previous tours have undoubtedly helped him prepare for the pending deployment.

He recalls with some amusement his first experience in theatre in Iraq in 2005.

In Kirkuk, Eisnor's team received a quick handoff from the previous team, and needed to acquaint themselves on the hostile environment in short order. During their first response call for an IED, Eisnor's team was travelling around a notorious rotary that served as a main bottleneck for the area. As he glanced out the window, he was struck by the sight of a carload of Iraqis dressed in civilian attire holding AK-47's and RPG's not more than two feet from their vehicle. He quickly asked an experienced team



(Photo by Senior Master Sgt. Robert Sabonis)

member if those individuals were indeed the enemy and that perhaps they should respond accordingly. **Assured that they were the "good guys",** Eisnor breathed a sigh of relief. He felt that incident reflected the atmosphere and chaos of 2005 in Iraq.

Eisnor will temporarily leave his position as a bomb appraiser with the Transportation Security Administration at TF Green Airport in Providence, RI.

Nellis incentive program

By Technical Sgt. Anthony Mutti, Public Affairs

When you work all day long in the hot Nevada sun preparing F-15s for flight, or you struggled for weeks before a deployment, readying cargo and coordinating airlift for a mission, an opportunity to be part of the execution of the mission, from the backseat is an invaluable tool for motivating and educating the Airmen who work so hard for missions to succeed.

While the wing was supporting the Weapons School course at Nellis Air Force Base, a number of deserving Airmen had an opportunity to sit in the back-seat of an F-15D, and experience first hand the fruits of their labors. **"This type of trip allowed us to offer a few incentive rides . . . as thanks for their hard work, and to reward some members at the end of their career, and as a motivator for those just beginning,"** said Capt. Michael

Dibrindisi, 104th Fighter Maintenance Officer.

"The best rollercoaster ever!" is how TSgt. James O'Brien described his incentive ride. "I've been in for 30 years this November, and they gave me a good anniversary present. We flew over the Hoover Dam, Grand Canyon, and then at a few thousand feet through the unrestricted air space of death valley. The one and half hour ride felt like 15 minutes – I was having so much fun!"

"It means a lot to us to be able to bring the two seat model out here and fly as many Airmen as we can during the two week trip– getting them in the backseat and saying well-done!" said Lt. Col. David "Moon" Halasikun.

The area surrounding Nellis Air Force Base provides an ideal opportunity



(Photo by Technical Sgt. Anthony Mutti)

nity for the pilots to highlight the capabilities of the F-15 to the members being flown in the backseat. The proximity to unrestricted airspace allows the pilots to fly low and high at speeds that they cannot typically do in Massachusetts, due to the congested airways.

"The Airmen are so motivated when they know they have an opportunity to fly in the F-15," said Halasikun. **"Not many Airmen get a chance to break the sound barrier and pull up to 9 Gs (nine times the force of gravity)."**



Safety: How goes it?

By Senior Master Sgt. Thomas Dumais, Ground Safety

Hello and Happy Holidays to you and your families, from all of us in the Safety Office. This however is not **the case for one of our unit member's** families. It is with great sadness that we report to you the loss of one member of our Barnes team. As you see below, we had a unit member become a fatality during an off-duty private motor vehicle mishap in which the vehicle departed the roadway, and he was ejected, resulting in his fatality. I know you hear it time and time again from us, but seatbelt wear is NOT AN OPTION! Yes, believe it or not, neither of the occupants were wearing their seatbelts, and you guessed it; both were ejected! Both were busted up, but one did not survive. The take away from this is, **PUT YOUR SEATBELTS ON!** In a crash you need to stay in the vehicle, not fly out of it!

Now back to the holidays, this year just like most, we approach the holidays with a sense of happiness as

we once again have a chance to gather with friends and family, and celebrate our lives. For some, this will also mean a time to travel, hunt, hit the slopes, snowmobile, ice fish, or enjoy any of the cold weather activities. We would like to remind everyone that no matter what you plan on doing, we ask you to apply risk management to the situation. Everyone knows that having a good time doing anything comes with inherent risks. How each of us manages that risk will determine just how much fun it truly is. The other factor we can throw into the mix is alcohol. We are all adults, so I will not preach, however, I will ask that you take care of each other and yourselves. We need each and every one of you, so play and party, **SAFELY!** The Safety Staff

The unit experienced 7 injuries since the last UTA.

-Worker cut closing a knife; Lacerated

finger; Situational awareness
-Worker injured by hot jet fuel; Burnt ear; Inadvertent discharge;
- Worker injured assembling desk; Lacerated face; Keyboard holder fell;
- Worker exhibited medical distress; Medical; Dehydration; No lost time
- Worker injured arm lifting tire; Shoulder strain; Awkward movement; Outcome TBD
- Worker cut by wrench slip; Lacerated knuckle; Slipped wrench; Greater than first aid

The unit experienced 1 mishap since the last UTA.

- PMV4 struck median; Occupants ejected; PPE NOT worn; Passenger FATAL, Operator injured in PMV4; Neck strain; Steering malfunction; Lost time

Thank you all for making it happen, **SAFELY!**

FM unit becomes 104th Comptroller Flight

By Staff Sgt. Matthew Benedetti, Public Affairs Journalist

The 104th Financial Management Unit will officially become the 104th Comptroller Flight during the October UTA. The 11 member unit, which handles all base related financial matters including pay and travel, will become a comptroller flight.

The new unit will perform the same duties, although the flight will become a separate component from the Financial Management Unit. The transition will mirror the active duty force structure.

The critical function of the unit,

providing financial services to base personnel, will remain the same. The flight will continue to serve as a bridge between unit members and the National Guard Bureau or the Department of Defense.

The flight will have its own flag which will help in establishing a distinct identity for the flight. Lt. Col. Charles Coulouras, a resident of Longmeadow, is the **Flight's commander and is excited about the designation.** "A superb change which enables ANG



Comptroller Flight personnel to train during peacetime within an organizational framework that mirrors their active-duty and deployed counterparts", he said.

104th Communications Flight provides key support

By Staff Sgt. Matthew Benedetti, Public Affairs Journalist

Although they had not slept much the previous night, the seven man communications unit of the 104th Fighter Wing approached the second day of the Patriot Guard exercise with vigor on a blustery November afternoon on Camp Edwards. Copters hovered overhead and beige Army vehicles rumbled by as the unit worked diligently to assemble the apparatus necessary to link their makeshift post with satellites in the stratosphere.

The exercise is designed to allow units to react, coordinate and respond in the event of a man made or natural disaster. 592 members from Army and Air units, as well as assets from FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) participated in the joint simulated exercise.

In June of 2010, US Cyber Command became fully operational, and this new shield in protecting our computer networks signals the next era in modern warfare.

Communications units, such as at the 104th, have always had an important role, but today their ca-

pabilities are imperative due to the rapidly advancing technology and ever changing rules of cyber engagement. Their efforts link each unit with one another, and create an environment where enhanced communication contributes to overall mission success.

The exercise tested the skills and adaptability of the Airmen while operating with Army units and members of the 267th and 102nd. **"Working in a joint environment offers new challenges that we would not otherwise be exposed to,"** said Lt. Dan St. Clair, the Officer in Charge (OIC) of the unit. **"The Army uses a different system, and now we know what the user needs,"** said the veteran of Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF). **"Everyone knows their role and is flexible,"** he added.

The unit members had been up late the previous night troubleshooting a problem with the network. They slept in tents in Tactical Training Base Kelly for only a few hours.

West Springfield native Airman CJ Biernia carried out his duties

with a can do attitude that reflected **the mood of the group.** **"Our clients are happy-this has been a great training opportunity and we learned a lot,"** said the graduate of UMass/Dartmouth. Master Sgt Paul Barsalou of Holyoke, also a veteran of OIF observed, **"We achieved success from an emergency response perspective—we learned a lot about the new system and we were able to successfully troubleshoot any problems."**

The 104th acquitted themselves well during this often intense exercise. **"In the event of a natural disaster, we are better prepared to provide assistance due to this experience,"** said Lt. St Clair.



U.S. Air Force File Photo

Spouses take flight at Barnes

By Airman 1st Class Bonnie Harper, Public Affairs

More than 30 spouses of unit members here took a flight on KC-135 Stratotanker on Friday, October 21, 2010.

This flight gives the spouses an idea of what we do out here, said Lt. Col. Dan Nash, the chief of standard evaluation, who helped coordinate the flight.

After more than an hour and a half of flying, the passengers deplaned with bright smiles on their faces. It was an awesome, morale-boosting experience, said Andrea Jeffers, the wife of Tech. Sgt. Stephen Jeffers, who works in Security Forces.

The group of spouses were split up

into two different aircrafts, which was done in order to prevent crowding against the windows. The KC-135 is an aerial refueling plane, and the two that were used for this event were flown down from Pease Air National Guard Base in New Hampshire. During the flight, the passengers had the opportunity to view the refueling process for our unit's F-15s. As they walked off the flight line, many remarked how memorable the flight was and how they appreciated that everyone was given a chance to take personal photos.

It was amazing to see how close the planes were as they refueled,



(Photo by Master Sgt. Mark Fortin)

Mrs. Jeffers said.

The base offers spouse flights once a year as a means of strengthening family connections.

It was a fun and exciting experience, said Heather Diem, the wife of Master Sgt. David Diem from the Communications Flight. Events like this help us feel like an actual part of the base, not just an extension, she said.

Children's Halloween Party 2010

By Staff Sgt. Matthew Benedetti, Public Affairs Journalist

On October 29th, the 104FW Annual Children's Halloween Party was held on base at the dining facility. Sponsored by the 104th Family Readiness Group (FRG), approximately 150 kids attended and had a great time! The USO was on hand to provide refreshments such as baked goods, coffee and juice. The kids enjoyed plenty of candy as well.

The night featured a ½ hour of entertainment compliments of The Rainforest Reptile Show, as well as a special appearance by Sponge Bob Squarepants. All the children received candy goody bags, a special arts-n-craft project (compliments of Mrs. Pryor and National Felt Company), and a mini pumpkin



(Photos by Senior Master Sgt. Robert Sabonis)

(compliments of Outlook Farm of Westhampton, MA).

If brave enough, the night continued with a haunted hayride. Kids toured the base in a tractor-pulled wagon stacked with hay, and visited several 'scary themed' sites. These spots were painstakingly designed and arranged by Todd Frazer, a civilian employee in Civil Engineering and the husband of Master Sgt Tina Dimino-Frazer of Headquarters. Donny Prior, also an employee of Civil Engineering, and retired member of the 104th, volunteered to drive the kids for the hayride which generated a lot of excitement and thrills for the young

passengers.

"We all look forward to the event because it brings so many people together, whether they are young or old, or new to the unit, said Dimino-Frazer. "It is a lot of work but it is so rewarding and we have a lot of laughs. We love to do it every year." she said.

The folks at Family Readiness, Sandy Wakefield, Pat Connors, Lynn O'Brien, Beth St. Clair, Cindy Patnode, Lynn Richards and Master Sgt Tina Dimino-Frazer thank Col Brooks, Col Keefe, all the guests, cast members and volunteers who make this event possible. See you next year!



(Photos by Senior Master Sgt. Robert Sabonis)



(Photos by Senior Master Sgt. Robert Sabonis)

Turkey traditions continue

By Master Sgt. Tina Dimino-Frazer, **Commander's Support** Staff

(Barnes Air National Guard Base, Westfield, Mass) The Westfield Boys and Girls Club annual Thanksgiving Dinner was a hit again this year with 428 dinners served, the largest response since the event began almost a decade ago.

On Thursday November 18th, volunteers from the 104th Fighter Wing took a day to give back to the Boys and Girls Club, and supported them in their annual Thanksgiving meal by cooking 20 turkeys, 50 pounds of fresh potatoes, 38 pounds of stuffing, and gallons of homemade gravy.

The club hosts this meal for all the families who use the club, and the community members who support the Club's mission. 'There is a lot to be thankful for, this is one way that we can share that gratitude with the people who make the club such a great place for our children,' said Mr. Bill Parks, Club Executive **Director**. He added, "This is one way the club can share with the community while reinforcing the

family atmosphere that is so **important to the Club.**"

The Westfield Boys and Girls Club of America wish to acknowledge and thank: Senior Master Sgt. Keith Buckhout, Senior Master Sgt. Kyle Kiepkke, Master Sgt. Barb Plotniak, Master Sgt. Maureen Dickinson, MSgt Tina Dimino-Frazer, Staff Sgt. Kelly Willing, Master Sgt (ret) Teddy Adams, Ms. Sandy Wakefield, Mrs. Aprile Brooks (wife of 104th Fighter Wing Commander, Col Robert T. Brooks), and Mrs. Hillary Reale (wife of 104th Fighter Wing Command Chief Master Sergeant, Al Reale) for all their participation and hard work.

Other volunteers who helped make it happen were: Maj Dave Mendoza, Senior Master Sgt Bill Butman, Master Sgt. Ron Perry, Master Sgt. Dominique Chapman, Master Sgt. Brenda Sanderson and Staff Sgt. Dawn Bailey.

"We served 428 people, I'm pretty sure that was our largest group yet," said 'Lerryn Godden, staff director. "The stuffing was

better than ever. We had so many compliments on everything. Thank you so much!"

I can attest first hand that Mrs. Aprile Brooks made all the stuffing.

There are many volunteer opportunities throughout the year that members of the Wing and their families can participate in, contact the Family Readiness Group Chairperson, Ms Patricia Connors at patricia.connors@ang.af.mil or 413-568-9151 x1717 or contact Maj. Matthew

Mutti at x 1800 for more information.



Farewell letter

From Master Sgt. Anthony DeFranco

After thirty five years of military service (active and guard), I am leaving the 104th FW. It will be the hardest thing I have ever done during my military career. I have had the privilege to laugh with you, cry at the loss of family and friends with you, enjoyed the news of many new lives, worked through exercises and ORI's with you, and even gone to war with the best group of friends and family. I consider you all part of the family as we have spent many years together, and have seen many new additions to our ranks.

I will skip the glamour, you all know you are the best, you have been

constantly told the truth. What I will say is this: NCO's take care of your people. I found that if you show you care for them, they will do whatever is necessary, knowing it will be appreciated. Supervise, mentor, assist, but don't smother them. They are adults and know what needs to be done, so let them do it.

My wife tells my granddaughter that her ears were made to listen. How true, listen to their words. Their train of thought may spark a new idea or process you haven't thought of. But don't listen to only their inputs about work, get to know them on a personal level, it will make you

a better supervisor, friend, and person.

To all the people of the 104th, I say take care of each other. We all need help at times, and our history revolves around doing just that. This act forms a bond of friendship that is unbreakable. Keep the chain intact, and it will make your time here easier and fun filled.

I will not miss the J.O.B., but rather the friends and family I have developed here at the 104th FW. Thank you for the greatest years here at Barnes, and for allowing me to be a part of your lives. I will miss you all.

Honor Flight

By Senior Master Sgt. Keith Buckhout, Family Support Yellow Ribbon

In late September I received a phone call from my father asking me if I wanted to accompany him on a trip to Washington D.C.. I said sure, when are we leaving? He said we're going on October 24th, but, so I knew there was a catch. He told me I had to attend a mandatory meeting at the Bedford VA hospital. Then the details came out, and I was introduced to the Honor Flight New England program. The program is designed to get World War 2 Veterans to the WWII monument in Washington D.C., a monument that was not built until after the Vietnam Memorial Wall and the Korean War memorial. With over 1000 WWII veterans dying every day, their time is limited. My father, retired Chief Warrant Officer Edwin Buckhout, USMC and WWII Vet, had been invited to participate in this event. There is no cost to the WWII veteran. The reason I had to attend this meeting was to explain the program and my responsibilities as a guardian on this trip. The guardian is a volunteer assigned to WWII Veterans never straying

more than an elbow's length away throughout the trip, catering to their needs and insuring they were all treated with dignity. Showtime was 0445 Sunday in the Bedford VA parking lot. 63 WWII Veterans and their guardians arrived, were accounted for, and assigned a bus. With over 50 wheel chairs loaded and everyone on the buses (3) we departed for Logan Airport with a sendoff of 8-12 Vette's for Vet's (corvettes) and a color guard. From that point on it was non-stop until we returned. I won't give too many details, because they want to surprise future WWII vet's wishing to go with the Honor Flight. Suffice it to say, this is one awesome trip. The Veterans get a tour of D.C., a chance to commiserate with other WWII veterans, and an experi-

ence they'll never forget.

On Veteran's Day, we take time to honor those who paved the way for the freedoms we enjoy. On December 7th, we'll remember a day that lives in infamy. These are special days of remembrance, but we should always remember The Greatest Generation left us a legacy not of any particular day, but of an era. When you see these older Veterans, thank them because we might be speaking another language if not for their sacrifices. For more information on Honor Flight New England, contact me, or check it out online at www.HonorFlightNewEngland.org.



Honor Flight members at the WWII Memorial (Photo by Senior Master Sgt. Buckhout)

What's My Line Winner!



(Photo by Senior Master Sgt. Robert Sabonis)

Last month's winner is:
"And you thought Hell's Kitchen was tough."

Submitted by Lori Mutti

Last month's runners-up are:
"two plus three is fiiiiive."

Submitted by Maj. Matt Mutti

"Yo, yo, yo, I love to cook... word."

Submitted by Senior Master Sgt. Rob Sabonis

"Master Chef."

Submitted by anonymous

"Sometimes, all you need is a big hug...from yourself...."

Submitted by anonymous

"They call me Vice-Grand

What's My Line?



(Photo by Senior Master Sgt. Robert Sabonis)

Submit your funny, creative and appropriate caption for the photo on the right. We will run the winner and a runner-up in next months AirScoop. Submit your entry to: 104fw.pa@ang.af.mil

For Your Information



AMXS First Sgt. vacancy

Position Title/Grade: First Sergeant / E-7

Eligible applicants: Must be an E-7 or an E-6 who is immediately promotable to E-7. Position is a MINIMUM three year tour with a maximum of 6 years. Members must carefully review ANGI 36-2113 to ensure they meet minimum standards and qualifications for position requirements and responsibilities before applying. Applicants must possess excellent communication and administrative skills, exceed fitness standards and exemplify Air Force Core values. Applicant must receive concurrence from current commander for consideration.

Applicant selected for this position must agree to serve tenure of no less than 3 years from date of graduating from First Sergeant Academy (FSA). If the member was a prior First Sergeant, the tenure starts the day of assignment. Applicant must have 3 years retainability prior to being placed in the UMD 8F000 position. Applicant must agree to complete the SNCO Academy Course in residence or by correspondence within 1 year from date of assignment. If a First Sergeant does not complete the SNCO Academy within 1 year from date of assignment, he/she must be removed from the position.

Training: Applicants (if selected) should be able to attend the First Sergeant Academy at Gunter Annex, AL at the earliest available school date and must complete the SNCOA in residence or by correspondence within 12 months of selection.

Application package must include:

- Cover sheet
- Letter of application (Describe what you can bring to the position)
- Resume
- Current passing fitness assessment
- RIP (record of individual personnel)
- Commander concurrence (letter or copy of email to 104FW/CCC)
- Letter of recommendation (optional)

Any package that is late or incomplete WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED.

Estimated date of assignment – 8 January 2011

Submit Applications via electronic format (word, pdf, etc) via email to: Maj Dave Mendoza, david.mendoza@ang.af.mil 104FW/DP, NLT 1200, 4 January 2011

Board date: 8 January 2011

For more information contact: CMSgt Todd Fappiano at todd.fappiano@ang.af.mil or 413-568-9151 x1343/1344

Or Major Pete Carr at peter.carr@ang.af.mil or 413-568-9151 x1301



JFHQ Director of Ops vacancy

Position Title/Grade: Director of Operations / O-6

The MA ANG JFHQ is advertising for the Director of Operations position at JFHQ. All interested applicants should apply by sending the requested documents to Col Green, MA ANG JFHQ/Director of Staff NLT COB 5 Dec 2010. Tentative date for the selection board will be Jan 9, 2010 in Milford.

The selection board will look at the following as a minimum:

1. Min/Max Rank - Lt Colonel/Colonel
2. AFSC background - Operational (11F4-Pilot, 014N3-Intelligence, 17D4B-Cyber Communications)
3. A3 Staff duties - Ability to maintain operational relevancy within current AFSC, while tasked to lead MA ANG JFHQ A3 and support G3/J3 duties in both domestic Operations and actions planning and unit operational issues. Need to coordinate efforts among all ANG A-Staff as necessary in support of major programs. Is liaison with MA NG G/J-staff and NGB/J-staff for MA ANG programs designated above.

Application package should include the following:

1. CC recommendation
2. Cover letter with details on experience in State, Wing/GSU command or directorate positions, deployments and/or leading state/wing/unit projects from concept to execution.
3. Resume with military PME and civilian education annotated, as well as decorations received.
4. Current Passing Physical Fitness test
5. Personnel RIP
6. Last 5 OPRs

Bone marrow drive

Give something special this Christmas. Hope! Get registered for the National Marrow Donor Program! Registering is as simple as a couple of mouth swabs and providing some medical and contact information. If matched, donation is as simple as a blood platelet donation, not the horror stories you may have heard! To register you must be between 18-60 years of age and a member of the DoD; active duty military members and their dependents, DoD civilians, Reservists, National Guard and members of the Coast Guard.

Note: If you have ever joined a bone marrow registry elsewhere such as for a local drive for a local person Cancer Society event or any other drives you don't need to re-register. This DoD registry along with many others worldwide is linked together to create one national database. For those of you not in a registry we hope to see you stop by and at least check it out!

Place: Barnes ANGB, DFAC, Room on left

Date and Time: Sunday 5Dec10, 0900-1300

To bring: Primary and alternate contact information for persons not living with you. Address/phone/e-mail

For Your Information

Healthy holiday tips

By Lt. Col. Anita Compagnone, 104/MDG

It's that time of year again. Holiday parties and family gatherings can present a special challenge when it comes to eating healthy. Here are some ways to stay healthy and control your weight this holiday season. Eat a healthy snack before leaving home. This will reduce the risk of overeating at the party.



Be realistic about your health goals during the holidays. Accept weight maintenance vs weight loss. Moderation is the key. Bring a dish. Contribute your favorite healthy dish to the holiday buffet. Savor every bite. Eating slowly reduces your chances of eating too much. Try Spritzers or low calorie beverages. Limit the use of alcohol. Exercise. Just taking a walk can do a lot for your mental and physical health. Socialize. Stay active by focusing on party activities instead of the buffet table. A dash of discipline and a pinch of planning is a great recipe for holiday fun without the regret the next time you step on the scale. Happy Holidays!

104th Fighter Wing Angel tree

Each year, Sandy Wakefield of Family Support Services orchestrates an annual Angel Tree. The Angel Tree gives 104th FW members an opportunity to help families during the holidays by giving gifts to children of families in need.



The Angel Tree will be set-up in the front foyer of building one in November. On the tree, will be ornaments with a child's wish list. To sponsor a child, a member will take the ornament and circle back with Sandy Wakefield to let her know of their good intentions.

For more information, please contact Sandy at (413) 568-9151, x1183 or sandra.wakefield@ang.af.mil

Walk in Legal assistance

The Legal Office provides legal assistance to all ANG members on the following legal deployment related issues: Wills, Powers of Attorney (Family Care Plans), Service Members Civil Relief Act, and Employment and Reemployment Rights. Walk In Hours are available every Saturday UTA from 0900 -1100 hours. If you are unable to come during this time, please call our office at ext. 1244 to make an appointment. We would be happy to accommodate your schedule.

In honor of
Major General Michael D. Akey's
retirement from the
Massachusetts Air National Guard
his family, friends and military
colleagues request the pleasure of your
company as we thank him for his
service to our great nation and wish
him well for the future

Saturday, February 12, 2011
Cocktails 6pm
Dinner 7pm
Presentations 9pm

Wyckoff Country Club
233 Easthampton Road
Holyoke, MA 01040

Point of Contacts
JFHQ - Lt Col Cuttle
104th - Maj Mutti
102nd - Maj Ivers
253rd - LT Haddon
212th - Maj Lewandowski

Tickets are \$50/per person
*Please make all checks payable to
HQ MA ANG Fund

Business Casual Attire

104th Fighter Wing
37th Annual
Awards Banquet

When: Saturday the fifth of
February Two Thousand Eleven

Where: Jekoa Country Club
459 Russell Road
Westfield, MA

Attire: Ladies, eveningwear
Gentlemen, suit & tie

*****Tickets*****
E-1 thru E-7 \$25
E-8 and above \$40

Please see supervisors for ticket info

Cocktails at Six, Dinner at Seven
DJ and dancing Immediately following awards
presentations

Please join us for a fun-filled evening together as we
recognize our peers for their Outstanding Performance...

"Pride, Professionalism, Patriotism"

RESERVED SEATING AVAILABLE, FIRST COME FIRST SERVE

Congratulations on your upcoming Retirements

Gelinas, Edmund	MXS	30 Nov 10
Sullivan, James	CF	6 Dec 10
Heller, Laurence	MXS	25 Jan 11
Zajac, Karin	MDG	1 Feb 11
Murphy, Stephen	MXS	13 Feb 11

Personnel ID machine hours

Tuesday 1300-1600
Wednesday 0830-1600
Thursday 0830-1600
Or by appointment



Religions notes:

Ecumenical time of Prayer & Reflection

Saturday 0650 – 0720 hrs. in the Avionics Class Room

Celebration of the Eucharist (**Roman**):

Saturday, Immediately following the ceremony in the DFAC

Divine Liturgy of the Mass (**Orthodox**):

Saturday, 1630 in the DFAC

Protestant Services:

Saturday, 1630 in Bldg 001 Conference Room



CCTV line up

Channel 7 - Ancillary Training & Base Info

Channel 9 - Warrior Network

Channel 10 - Pentagon Channel



Ancillary training video schedule

Morning

Training Video

0900-0940	Forklift Fundamentals and Ops
0940-1013	Confined Space Awareness
1013-1023	Basic Ladder Safety
1023-1053	Lockout/Tagout
1053-1101	FOD Prevention
1101-1108	Copyright Infringement

Afternoon

Training Video

1300-1340	Forklift Fundamentals and Ops
1340-1413	Confined Space Awareness
1413-1423	Basic Ladder Safety
1423-1453	Lockout/Tagout
1453-1501	FOD Prevention
1501-1508	Copyright Infringement

Congratulations on your Promotions

To Senior Airman (E-4)

Moulton, Garrett, 104 AMXS

Spear, Anthony, 104 CES



To Staff Sgt. (E-5)

Crochiere, Kirk, 104FW AMXS

Machado, Richard, 104FW CES

Santos, Glendannis, 104FW SFS



To Master Sgt. (E-7)

Almeida, Jeffrey, 104FW MXS

Brandt, Lynn, 104FW CPT FLT



Benefit for former unit member

A benefit will be held on 13 Dec. at Maneeley's Catering in honor of SMSgt Sheryl Laporte as she courageously battles in her fight against cancer. The donations raised from this event will assist the Laporte family during this difficult time. Dinner on Dec 13 at 5 p.m. at Maneeley's Catering, 65 Rye Street, Windsor MA.

For info contact Chief Master Sgt. Wawruck 860-292-2504

This Month in History

The back cover of the AirScoop is dedicated to the history of the unit and the Air Force. We will feature historic covers or articles from the archives and highlight a few historic headlines. (side note) From 1947 to 1954 the Base Newspaper was named the Thunderbolt. The first official Copy of the AirScoop was published in January 1954.

December Headlines:

Dec 25, 1776 - During the American Revolution, Patriot General George Washington crosses the Delaware River with 5,400 troops, hoping to surprise a Hessian force celebrating Christmas at their winter quarters in Trenton, New Jersey.

Dec 5, 1941 - USS Lexington, one of the two largest aircraft carriers employed by the United States during World War II, makes its way across the Pacific in order to carry a squadron of dive bombers to defend Midway Island from an anticipated Japanese attack.

Dec 7, 1941- At 7:55 a.m. Hawaii time, a Japanese dive bomber bearing the red symbol of the Rising Sun of Japan on its wings appears out of the clouds above the island of Oahu.

Dec 8, 1965 - In some of the heaviest raids of the war, 150 U.S. Air Force and Navy planes launch Operation Tiger Hound to interdict the Ho Chi Minh Trail in the lower portion of the Laotian panhandle, from Route 9 west of the Demilitarized Zone, south to the Cambodian border.

Dec 4, 1983 - Aircraft from USS John F. Kennedy (CV-67) and USS Independence (CV-62) launch strike against anti-aircraft positions in Lebanon that fired on U.S. aircraft.

Dec 20, 1989 - The United States invades Panama in an attempt to overthrow military dictator Manuel Noriega, who had been indicted in the United States on drug trafficking charges and was accused of suppressing democracy in Panama and endangering U.S. nationals.

MASSACHUSETTS AIR NATIONAL GUARD

Barnes Air National Guard Base
175 Falcon Drive
Westfield, MA 01805

Phone: (413) 568-9151
Fax: (413) 572-1515
E-mail: 104fw.PA@ang.af.mil
Official Web: www.104fw.ang.af.mil

Social Media Sites:
www.facebook.com/barnesang
www.twitter.com/104fighterwing
www.flickr.com/photos/barnesangb
www.westfieldairshow.net



PRIDE
PROFESSIONALISM
PATRIOTISM

We're on the Web

WWW.104FW.ANG.AF.MIL

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